

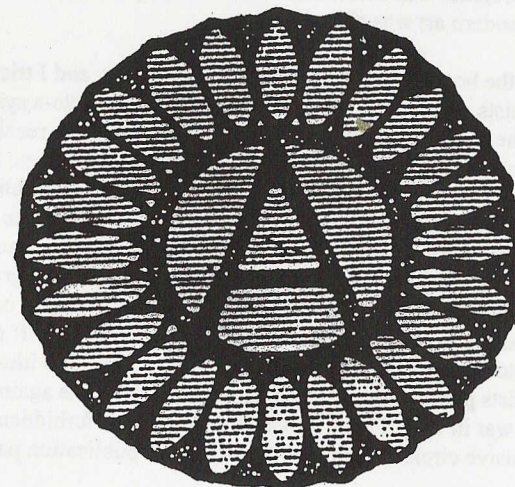
2. Contact ODOC Interim Director Ben de Hann and OSP Acting Superintendent Brian Belleque. Inquire about Rob and Brian's situation and demand that they be returned to general population at OSP immediately. (Please send copies of all text messages and ODOC responses to APLAN for our records. Contact information below.)

- Interim Director Ben de Hann  
ODOC Central Administration Office  
2575 Center Street, NE  
Salem, OR 97301-4667  
Tel: 503.945.9090  
Fax: 503.373.1173
- Acting Superintendent Brian Belleque  
Oregon State Penitentiary  
2605 State Street  
Salem, OR 97310  
Tel: 503.378.2445  
Fax: 503.378.3897

The Oregon Department of Corrections may also be emailed at:  
[DOC.Info@doc.state.or.us](mailto:DOC.Info@doc.state.or.us)

3. Donate funds. Rob and Brian will need funds in the coming months for basic expenses (Rob lost his prison job) and to fight ODOC attacks. The Anarchist Prisoners' Legal Aid Network also needs funds to continue and improve its support for Rob, Brian and other imprisoned radicals.
- Funds for Rob (checks / money orders to "Rob los Ricos") should be sent to:  
Rob los Ricos Enterprises  
PO Box 50634  
Eugene, OR 97405
  - Donations for Brian McCarvill may be sent through APLAN, or as checks / money orders made payable to "DOC for Brian McCarvill #11037967" and sent to:  
Central Trust - ODOC  
PO Box 14400  
Salem, OR 97309-5077
  - Funds for APLAN's ongoing prisoner support may be sent as concealed cash, or checks / money orders with "Pay to:" section left blank, to:

**APLAN**  
Anarchist Prisoners' Legal Aid Network  
818 SW 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue PMB #354 Portland OR 97204 USA



**THIS IS NOT A GANG SYMBOL.**

## Robert Thaxton Statement from the Hole

Watch your BACK!

On Jan. 9th, anarchists Rob Thaxton and Brian McCarvill were sanctioned with 120 days in the Disciplinary Segregation Unit at Oregon State Penitentiary. The offence listed on their Misconduct Reports is "Unauthorized Organization I", but the hearings officer told me that she found me "guilty of continuing to be involved with the anarchist movement." The Oregon Department of Corrections and OSP in particular, have taken it upon themselves to act as thought police and punish people for their political views. The act which inspired this punishment is so petty as to be laughable: we had asked people to send us mail. When people responded by the dozens, the prisonrats took offense and sent us to the hole. One day, I'll look back at this time and laugh. Right now, though, this isn't very funny- sitting here without my guitar, books, magazines, income from my job in the prison infirmary, almost no chance for visits, listening to idiotic conversations between people shouting from one cell emblazoned with swastikas to another. This whole episode revolves around symbols and their power, though apparently OSP staff have fewer worries about swastikas than they do about circle-a's, the "anarchy" symbol.

It's the little things.

Since I was first incarcerated here at OSP, the prison authorities have been overly concerned with my politics. I am routinely denied materials they think crosses some vague boundary of unacceptability. UK literature professor, the late John Moore's book examining anarchist



tendencies in "primitive" societies was forbidden. Canadian art professor Allan Antliff's book on anarchist influence in modern art was allowed.

It was evident to me from the beginning that this was a bit arbitrary, and I tried to challenge their designation of anarchists as a Security Threat Group, and the circle-a symbol as an STG symbol. What this has come down to over the ensuing years is that I can receive anything, even if it has the word "Anarchy" splashed across the pages in 4-inch letters, but I can't have anything that contains a circle-a symbol. This has been used to deny me publications which featured photos of demonstrations, where a circle-a symbol on a patch on the pants of one of the participants was clearly visible. Other, similar violations were given because circle-a symbols could be seen among the graffiti in the background of some photographs. And, since most anarchist publications usually exhibit a circle-a in some manner or another, this gives the prisoncrats an excuse to prohibit them. In short, I am being cut off from contact with other anarchists and to a large extent, any mention of anarchist activities, or even activities in which anarchists participate - such as mass demonstrations against economic summit meetings and the war in Iraq. The prisoncrats even made it forbidden for people to mark or cut out such offensive circle-a's in order to make their publication palatable for the prisoncrats.

I could challenge this in court, and have contemplated doing so, but - for one thing - the case would likely drag on for years and still not be resolved before I'm released in Oct. '06. Also, with my experience with courtrooms in the past, I know there is little hope for much sympathy, much less a fair hearing. Courts tend to back up prisoncrats' dictatorships.

Lately, though, I've become more and more angry as fewer people write or send literature to me, due to prisoncratic interference. With less mail making it in, each Mail Violation Notice I receive angers and frustrates me all the more. The Oregon Department of Corrections does not have the right to limit my communications with people who hold similar political views. I am being isolated, at a time when the actions of the Bush Junta, and his family's dreams of a New World Order, demand that everyone who cherishes life and cares about their fellow humans' well-being speak out and take action against him and the NWO.

I'm in prison for being involved in a street battle with the Eugene Police Department, as part of one of the many "anti-globalization" days-of-action that rocked the world from '99-'01. Of all the people arrested around the world during these actions, as far as I know, I'm the only one still in prison. Like I mentioned above, the prisoncrats have been concerned about having someone with more than 20 years of activist experience, much of it as an organizer. Those two words together, added to the fact that I'm an anarchist, spells out "Riot" to the prisoncrats - one of the charges I was convicted of, by the way. While incarcerated, I've tried to remain active, writing letters, sending contributions to anarchist publications and encouraging anarchists to be more involved in supporting prisoners.

The prisoncrats and I have been going back and forth over the mail issue for years now. What it comes down to is their arbitrary use of authority. There is no rational reason for them to deny anything entering their facilities just because there is a circle-a somewhere in its pages. Their entire argument is "Because we say so."

So, rather than go to the courts, rather than waste my time arguing with them, I did what I tend to do - I organized an anarchist protest. I asked people outside to send postcards with a circle-a and the caption: "This is not a gang symbol." Then, I forgot about it.

A little while later, since the holiday season was upon us, the prisoners here were allowed - as we are every year - to make 15 minute videos to send to our families and friends. From what I've heard since then, there are a number of people upset over my video. Not the message - it was just me reading poetry and playing my guitar. No, the Authorities were angry because they didn't review the tape before it went out. Who knows what diabolical instructions were sent on that tape - and to whom? The OSP activities crew don't keep such records, to ensure the privacy and safety of the recipients. Someone is very angry about that.

On, Jan. 2 ('03) Benny Ward, the STG manager for ODOC, came to visit me. He wanted me to move out of my cell, which I share with Brian McCarvill. Brian is involved in a lawsuit against ODOC/OSP over using the circle-a symbol as a reason to deny mail into their institutions. He implied that there would be consequences if I didn't move. Brian and I discussed this and decided it wasn't necessary for us to move.

Five days later, we were given Misconduct Reports, concerning 52 items of mail sent to us, and charged with being part of an unauthorized organization. Suddenly, Mr. Ward's visit began to make a little more sense. ODOC is being pressured from above to do something about us bad ol' anarchists. Our lawsuits are costing them money, and the feds (rightly) think ODOC are fools who can't keep track of persons of interest within their institutions. To illustrate what great fools they are, it is illegal for prisons to retaliate, or even threaten to retaliate, against prisoners for bringing lawsuits against them. They peeled that banana, threw the skin on the floor and slipped on it themselves.

Two days later, Brian and I were sanctioned to spend 4 months in the hole, apiece. We are being singled out for repression because of our political views and because we stand up for our rights as human beings.

## How You Can Help

1. Write letters of support to Rob and Brian (envelopes must contain a full name and return address):
  - Robert Thaxton #12112716
  - Brian McCarvill #11037967Both at:  
Oregon State Penitentiary  
2605 State Street  
Salem, OR 97310

(continued overleaf)